

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 SCA-01 AID-05 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /083 W

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R 210623Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3747

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3340

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG ICRC ET

SUBJECT: ICRC OPERATIONS

REF: ADDIS 3206

1. ICRC REP GAILLARD STOPPED BY EMBASSY MARCH 20 ON OWN INITIATIVE TO INFORM US OF GIST MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM ICRC GENEVA. MESSAGE INFORMS GAILLARD OF MOREILLON CONVERSATION WITH USMISSION GENEVA MARCH 19 IN WHICH ICRC GENEVA ASKED USMISSION TO URGE USG MAKE FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS IN ETHIOPIA TO FACILITATE ICRC OPERATIONS HERE.

2. POL COUNSELOR POINTED OUT TO GAILLARD THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED THIS EMBASSY'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN MULTILATERAL REPRESENTATIONS TO EPMG ON ICRC OPERATIONS IN ERITREA ON EACH OF HIS VISITS. EMBASSY QUIETLY PURSUING THIS INTEREST AS OPPORTUNE. GAILLARD AGREED.

E. GAILLARD SHARED SEVERAL OTHER ITEMS OF INFORMATION WITH US. HE SAID DIRG DISCUSSION ON EMPEROR'S FATE HAD BEEN POSTPONED (SEPTEL). HE ALSO ASSERTED THAT ELF STILL HELD ONE MAJOR,
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ONE CAPTAIN AND ONE LIEUTENANT OF ETHIOPIAN FORCES; FRONT

HAD RELEASED 17 ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS, WHICH FORMERLY IN ITS HANDS BUT THESE NOW DETAINED BY DIRG. GAILLARD SAID HE HAD FAIRLY SOLID INFORMATION THAT 3-400 ERITREANS BEING DETAINED NEAR ADDIS OLD AIRPORT BY ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE EXPECTED SHORTLY TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ON PLACE OF DETENTION, ETC. GAILLARD ALSO ASSERTED THAT SOME 40 ETHIOPIAN SERVICEMEN ACCUSED OF DISLOYALTY, ATTEMPTING TO DEFECT/DESERT AND UNSPECIFIED OTHER CRIMES, WERE EXECUTED IN ADDIS ABABA AREA O/A MARCH 15. COMMENT: ANOTHER VERSION OF THIS STORY WHICH CURRENTLY CIRCULATING IN ADDIS IS THAT THESE MEN WERE TAKEN FROM AKAKI PRISON ON ROAD TO SABETA AND WERE MACHINE-GUNNED TO DEATH THERE. WE HAVE NO RPT NO COLLATERAL. END COMMENT. PRESSED HARD TO EVALUATE THIS REPORT, GAILLARD ASSERTED THAT SOURCE WAS RELIABLE AND WAS PRESENT IN UNSPECIFIED OPERATIONS CENTER WHEN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF EXECUTIONS REPORTED IN BY RADIO.

4. GAILLARD ALSO SAID THAT LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM SHOWS THAT ICRC RELIEF COMMODITIES ARE REACHING ASMARA FROM MASSAWA AND "ARE STILL IN THE HANDS OF THE ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS." HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ERC ALREADY DISTRIBUTING THESE RELIEF COMMODITIES AS ICRC WISHES, OR WHETHER THEY ARE BEING STORED, BUT SUSPECTED THAT LATTER BEING DONE.
WYMAN

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